Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 28 with the following amended paragraph.

Referring now to FIG. 2, a project plan chart 50 includes time bars 52, 54a, 56 associated with three respective activities A, B, C having an FS relationship at a merging point 57. As shown in FIG. 2, activities A and B are upstream with respect to activity C and activity C is downstream with respect to activities A and B. The project plan chart 50 corresponds to an initially planned schedule. A time scale 64 represents illustrative times associated with the various time bars 52, 54a, 56. Activities A, B and C thus have durations represented by the associated time bars ~~42~~52, 54a, 56.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 6 with the following amended paragraph.

Activity A and activity B each have an FS relationship 58, 60a with activity C. A reliability buffer time bar 62 is disposed on a first region of the activity time bar 56. Thus, rather than utilizing the prior art approach of providing contingency buffers appended to the ends of time bars ~~42~~52, 54a associated with activities A and B, in accordance with the present invention, the reliability buffer 62 is associated with activity C. In the example of FIG. 2, the reliability buffer 62 is placed at the beginning of time bar 56 associated with activity C.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 28 with the following amended paragraph.

Referring now to FIG. 2A, in which like elements of FIG. 2 are provided having like reference designations, another illustrative example is shown of a project plan chart 70, which

includes time bars 52, 54b, 56 associated with three respective activities A, B, C having an FS relationship at a merging point 59. As shown in FIG. 2A, activities A and B are upstream with respect to activity C and activity C is downstream with respect to activities A and B. The project plan chart 70 corresponds to an initially planned schedule. A time scale 64 represents illustrative times associated with the various time bars 52, 54b, 56. Activities A, B and C thus have durations represented by the associated time bars ~~42~~52, 54a, 56.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 28 with the following amended paragraph.

As described in U.S. patent application no. 10/068,119[————————], entitled Dynamic Planning Method and System, having attorney docket number MIT-086AUS, filed on February 6, 2002, and assigned to the assignee of the present invention and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, conventional project plan data can be transferred to the project data processor 106 of the present invention from a conventional project management computer tool such as PERT. Alternatively, conventional project plan data can be provided to the project data processor 106 by users via user interfaces associated with the project data processor 106.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 6 with the following amended paragraph.

Conventional project plan data 104 provided by the project plan processor 102 can include conventional activity characteristics data, activity relationship data and policy data. The project data processor 106 receives the conventional project plan data 104 and allows the user to both alter the conventional project plan data and/or to add additional project plan data elements to the conventional project [-]plan data via one or more user interfaces. The user can provide additional activity relationship data 108, activity characteristics data 110, and policy data 112.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 23 with the following amended paragraph.

The upstream activity 162b has an updated completion time at t_3, that is delayed from the initially planned completion time of activity 162a (having an initially planned duration 172) by a period of time computed as t_3-t_2 and designated with reference numeral 174 in FIG. 5. It should be noted that the updated, or actual, duration of the activity 162b (having an actual duration 176) is increased from that initially planned 162a. In the static buffering approach 160, the delay 174 in the upstream activity completion is directly passed to the downstream activity by delaying the updated start time, t_3, of the reliability buffer 166b and consequently the updated start time, t_5, of the downstream activity 164b. The initial FS relationship 170a having no lead between the upstream activity 162a and the reliability buffer 166a remains unchanged as activity 162b is delayed. The reliability buffer duration value 178, 180 also remains unchanged. Thus, a static approach can be used to adjust the project schedule based upon new data knowledge, for example knowledge that an activity has actually been completed. Note that the updated downstream activity 164b has an updated delayed start at time t_5.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 22 with the following amended paragraph.

It should be recognized that the time precedence relationship 184 to the upstream activity 162b, initially having an FS relationship with no lead or lag, is updated to have lead with respect to the upstream activity 162b (i.e. the updated reliability buffer begins prior to the finish of the upstream activity). Also, the reliability buffer duration value 182 is increased to provide a longer updated reliability buffer 166c from that initially planned 166a. Note that the delay in the start of the downstream activity 164c is improved from that of the static approach 164b by a time value of $t_5 - t_4$.